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SUBJECT: UNITED KINGDOM: 2000 ANNUAL TERRORISM REPORT

REF: STATE 217248

11. THE UNITED KINGDOM CONTINUED ITS AGGRESSIVE EFFORTS AGAINST DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM IN 2000. IT PASSED A NEW TERRORISM LAW THAT GIVES THE GOVERNMENT EXPANDED POWERS TO FIGHT BOTH DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN TERRORISM, AND IT CONTINUED ITS CLOSE COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED STATES TO BRING TERRORISTS TO JUSTICE.

1A. RESPONSE OF THE UK JUDICIAL SYSTEM TO ACTS OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM AND/OR SIGNIFICANT ACTS OF DOMESTIC TERRORISM DURING 2000: TWELVE INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN CHARGED BASED ON THEIR ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT IN THE FEBRUARY 7 HIJACKING OF AN AFGHAN ARIANA AIRLINER THAT LANDED AT STANSTED AIRPORT. THE CHARGES INCLUDE HIJACKING, FALSE IMPRISONMENT, POSSESSION OF A FIREARM WITH INTENT TO CAUSE FEAR OF VIOLENCE, AND POSSESSION OF EXPLOSIVES. THEIR TRIAL IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN ON JANUARY 15, 2001. FOLLOWING A U.S.-UK INITIATIVE, THE TRIAL OF TWO LIBYANS CHARGED WITH THE BOMBING IN 1988 OF PAN AM 103 OVER LOCKERBIE SCOTLAND BEGAN IN MAY 2000 IN A SCOTTISH COURT SITTING IN THE NETHERLANDS. THE ACCUSED ARE CHARGED WITH MURDER, BREACH OF THE UK AVIATION SECURITY ACT, AND CONSPIRACY. AT YEAR END, THE TRIAL CONTINUES.

IN APRIL, IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST FROM THE UNITED STATES, THE GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE CONDUCTED SEARCHES AT TWO LOCATIONS IN MANCHESTER IDENTIFIED AS RESIDENCES OF TWO INDIVIDUALS IDENTIFIED AS HAVING BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH USAMA BIN LADEN AND AL-QUEDA. IN NOVEMBER, TWO INDIVIDUALS WERE ARRESTED IN BIRMINGHAM FOR CONSPIRACY TO CAUSE EXPLOSIONS UNDER THE PREVENTION OF TERRORISM ACT. THE SUBJECTS, MOINUL ABEDIN AND FAISAL MUSTAFA, FACE LIFE IMPRISONMENT IN THE UK IF CONVICTED.

DURING 2000, HMG CONTINUED ITS INVESTIGATIONS OF TERRORIST MURDERS RELATING TO THE TROUBLES IN NORTHERN IRELAND. THESE INCLUDE THE 1998 BOMBING IN OMAGH, WHICH KILLED 29 PERSONS, AND THE MARCH, 1999 MURDER OF ROSEMARY NELSON, A DEFENSE LAWYER. OFFICIALS MADE PUBLIC SOME OF THE INFORMATION THEY HAVE COLLECTED ON BOTH CASES AND APPEALED FOR WITNESSES TO COME FORWARD WITH EVIDENCE THAT WOULD ALLOW FOR SUSPECTS TO BE PROSECUTED.

HMG ALSO PRESSES OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO PROSECUTE SUSPECTED TERRORISTS. IT CONTINUES TO PURSUE THE CASES OF BRITISH AND AMERICAN CITIZENS MURDERED IN YEMEN IN 1998 AND THE MURDER OF BRITISH CITIZENS IN UGANDA IN 1999. IT IS WORKING WITH GREEK OFFICIALS TO BRING TO JUSTICE THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MURDER IN ATHENS ON JUNE 8 OF THE BRITISH MILITARY ATTACHE BRIGADIER SAUNDERS. THE 17 NOVEMBER GROUP HAS CLAIMED CREDIT FOR THE MURDER. HMG IS ALSO WORKING WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF YEMEN TO HOLD ACCOUNTABLE THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ATTACK ON THE BRITISH EMBASSY THERE IN OCTOBER, AND WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF SAUDI ARABIA RELATIVE TO THE ATTACKS AND MURDER OF BRITISH CITIZENS IN THAT COUNTRY.

1B. UK RECORD OF EXTRADITION OF SUSPECTED TERRORISTS: THE UK CONTINUES TO COOPERATE FULLY WITH THE UNITED STATES IN REGARD TO THE U.S. REQUEST FOR EXTRADITION OF INDIVIDUALS INDICTED IN THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK ON TERRORISM-RELATED CHARGES IN CONNECTION WITH THE 1998 EMBASSY BOMBINGS IN

NAIROBI AND DAR ES SALAAM. KHALED AL-FAWWAZ, IBRAHIM HUSSEIN ABDEL HADI EIDAROUS, AND ABEL MOHAMMED ABDUL ALMAGID BARY HAVE ALL BEEN FOUND BY UK COURTS TO BE SUBJECT TO EXTRADITION TO THE U.S. THEIR APPEALS TO THIS FINDING ARE CURRENTLY BEFORE BRITISH COURTS. HMG IS ALSO COOPERATING WITH A REQUEST BY THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT SEEKING THE EXTRADITION OF RASHID RAMDA, AN ALGERIAN WANTED IN CONNECTION WITH A SERIES OF BOMBINGS IN FRANCE.

1C. IMPEDIMENTS TO HOST GOVERNMENT PROSECUTION AND/OR EXTRADITION OF SUSPECTED TERRORISTS: IT IS HMG POLICY TO PROSECUTE AND/OR EXTRADITE SUSPECTED TERRORISTS. HMG PURSUES THIS POLICY WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, THE 1951 CONVENTION ON REFUGEES, AND UK ASYLUM LAWS. UNLIKE U.S. LAW, BRITISH LAW DOES NOT GIVE UK AUTHORITIES EXTRATERRITORIAL JURISDICTION IN TERRORISM CASES.

1D. UK RESPONSES OTHER THAN PROSECUTION TO TERRORIST INCIDENTS: HMG CONSISTENTLY CONDEMNS ALL ACTS OF TERRORISM AND PRESSES OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO DEVELOP STRONG COUNTERTERRORIST MEASURES. UK LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS ARE WORKING CLOSELY ON THE GROUND WITH BOTH GREEK AND SAUDI OFFICIALS TO ASSIST THE HOST GOVERNMENTS IN THEIR INVESTIGATIONS INTO ATTACKS ON BRITISH SUBJECTS OR INTERESTS. HMG CONSULTS WITH AND PROVIDES ASSISTANCE TO GOVERNMENTS THAT ARE PREPARED TO DEVELOP AND PURSUE POLICIES TO FIGHT TERRORISM.

1E. MAJOR COUNTERTERRORISM EFFORTS UNDERTAKEN BY HMG IN 2000:

IN JULY, A NEW UK-WIDE TERRORISM ACT WAS SIGNED INTO LAW, EXTENDING MECHANISMS AND POWERS THAT HAD BEEN DEVELOPED TO DEAL WITH TERRORISM RELATING TO NORTHERN IRELAND TO ALL FORMS OF DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN TERRORISM ACROSS THE UNITED KINGDOM. THE LAW, WHICH COMES INTO FORCE IN FEBRUARY 2001, REPLACES THE PREVENTION OF TERRORISM (TEMPORARY PROVISIONS) ACT OF 1989 AND THE NORTHERN IRELAND (EMERGENCY PROVISIONS) ACT OF 1996 (AMENDED IN 1998).

THE NEW LAW WILL APPLY THROUGHOUT THE UNITED KINGDOM AND TO ALL FORMS OF INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC TERRORISM. IT WIDENS THE DEFINITION OF TERRORISM TO INCLUDE ACTIONS OR THREATS OF ACTION THAT ARE DESIGNED TO INFLUENCE THE GOVERNMENT OR INTIMIDATE THE PUBLIC TO ADVANCE A POLITICAL, RELIGIOUS, OR IDEOLOGICAL CAUSE AND THAT INVOLVE SERIOUS VIOLENCE AGAINST A PERSON OR SERIOUS DAMAGE TO PROPERTY, ENDANGERS A PERSON'S LIFE, CREATES A SERIOUS RISK TO THE HEALTH OR SAFETY OF THE PUBLIC, OR IS DESIGNED TO SERIOUSLY INTERFERE WITH AN ELECTRONIC SYSTEM. THE ACT GIVES THE POLICE SPECIAL ARREST POWERS IN TERRORIST CASES AND ALLOWS THE GOVERNMENT TO PROSCRIBE ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNED WITH ANY FORM OF INTERNATIONAL OR DOMESTIC TERRORISM AND TO PROSECUTE INDIVIDUALS WHO PARTICIPATE IN OR SUPPORT SUCH ORGANIZATIONS OR THEIR ACTIVITIES. THE LAW ENHANCES THE GOVERNMENT'S POWER TO SEIZE RESOURCES RELATING TO TERRORIST ACTIVITIES.

A NEW REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT, WHICH BECAME LAW IN JULY 2000, ESTABLISHES ARRANGEMENTS FOR INTERCEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND A STATUTORY BASIS FOR THE AUTHORIZATION AND USE OF COVERT SURVEILLANCE. THE ACT GIVES ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS NEEDED LEVERAGE IN DEALING WITH INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS SUSPECTED OF BEING INVOLVED IN TERRORIST-RELATED ACTIVITIES WHILE SAFEGUARDING THE PUBLIC FROM UNNECESSARY INVASIONS OF THEIR PRIVACY. BRITISH OFFICIALS HAVE INITIATED COOPERATIVE EFFORTS WITH FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS TO ASSIST THEM IN BRINGING TO JUSTICE INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS RESPONSIBLE FOR TERRORIST ACTIVITIES AND TO DETER ACTS OF TERRORISM.

HMG SIGNED THE UN CONVENTION ON TERRORIST BOMBING ON JANUARY 10, 2000, THE FIRST DAY THE CONVENTION WAS OPENED FOR SIGNING. IT IS COMMITTED TO RATIFYING THAT CONVENTION AND THE CONVENTION ON TERRORIST FINANCING, WHICH WAS SIGNED IN 1998, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

1F. SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM, TERRORISTS, OR TERRORIST GROUPS: HMG DOES NOT SUPPORT ANY FORM OF TERRORISM OR ANY TERRORISTS. IT ACTIVELY OPPOSES INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM, TERRORISTS AND TERRORIST GROUPS. THE GOVERNMENT

IS COMMITTED TO PREVENTING THE UK BEING USED AS A BASE FOR TERRORISM, INCLUDING AS A SOURCE FOR FUNDING OF TERRORIST ACTIVITIES ABROAD. THE NEW TERRORISM ACT WILL ENHANCE HMG AUTHORITIES' ABILITY TO ADDRESS THESE ISSUES.

1G. PUBLIC STATEMENTS IN SUPPORT OF TERRORIST-SUPPORTING COUNTRIES ON A TERRORIST ISSUE: HMG HAS NOT MADE ANY STATEMENTS IN SUPPORT OF U.S.-DESIGNATED STATE SPONSORS OF TERRORISM ON TERRORISM-RELATED ISSUES. IT CONSISTENTLY SPEAKS OUT PUBLICLY IN OPPOSITION TO TERRORISM AND USES ITS DIALOGUE WITH OTHER COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THOSE IDENTIFIED AS SUPPORTING OR TOLERATING TERRORISM, TO DO THE SAME.

1H. SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN THE UK'S ATTITUDE TOWARD TERRORISM DURING 2000: THE UK REMAINS RESOLUTELY OPPOSED TO TERRORISM IN ALL FORMS.

1I. U.S. COUNTERTERRORISM EFFORTS AND INITIATIVES PURSUED IN CONJUNCTION WITH HMG: HMG COOPERATES CLOSELY WITH THE U.S. AT ALL LEVELS ON COUNTERTERRORISM POLICIES AND OPERATIONS, BOTH BILATERALLY AND THROUGH INTERNATIONAL FORA, INCLUDING THE G8 AND THE UN. THIS COOPERATION INCLUDES REGULAR BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS ON POLICY AND OPERATIONAL ISSUES.

WASHINGTON'S CLOSE TIES TO BOTH LONDON AND DUBLIN FACILITATED OUR CONTINUING KEY ROLE IN FACILITATING THE PEACE PROCESS IN NORTHERN IRELAND. THE RESULT OF THE CLOSE COOPERATION HAS BEEN A SIGNIFICANT DECREASE IN TERRORIST ACTIVITY AND CONTINUED PROGRESS TOWARD NORMALIZATION OF POLITICAL, POLICING AND SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS AS CALLED FOR IN THE GOOD FRIDAY AGREEMENT. U.S. OFFICIALS CONTINUE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH BRITISH AND IRISH COUNTERPARTS TO CONTAIN THE CONTINUED TERRORIST THREAT PRESENTED BY DISSIDENT REPUBLICAN AND LOYALIST PARAMILITARY GROUPS. INCIDENTS OR ATTEMPTS DURING 2000 INCLUDE INTRACOMMUNITY FEUDS AND PUNISHMENT ATTACKS ON CIVILIANS AS WELL AS ACTIONS AGAINST POLICE, SECURITY AND MILITARY INSTALLATIONS AND PERSONNEL IN BOTH NORTHERN IRELAND AND GREAT BRITAIN. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS DETERMINED THE REAL IRA, THE CONTINUITY IRA, THE RED HAND DEFENDERS, AND THE ORANGE VOLUNTEERS ARE NOT MAINTAINING A TOTAL AND UNEQUIVOCAL CEASE-FIRE UNDER THE TERMS OF THE GOOD FRIDAY AGREEMENT.

IN DECEMBER, HMG JOINED THE U.S. IN VOTING IN THE UNSC FOR SANCTIONS TO BE IMPOSED ON THE TALIBAN. IT HAS SUPPORTED THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN EU COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGY AND ENCOURAGED USE OF THE G8 MECHANISM TO INCREASE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN COUNTERING TERRORISM.

1J. COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. IN THE INVESTIGATION OR PROSECUTION OF ACTS OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM AGAINST U.S. CITIZENS OR INTERESTS: COOPERATION BETWEEN THE USG AND HMG HAS BEEN INVALUABLE TO THE UNITED STATES IN CONNECTION WITH ITS INVESTIGATION INTO USAMA BIN LADEN AND AL-QAEDA ORGANIZATION. HMG CONTINUES TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE USG TO ENSURE THAT KHALID AL-FAWWAZ, ABDEL MOHAMMED ABDUL ALMADGID BARY, AND IBRAHIM EIDAROUS, ALL OF WHOM HAVE BEEN INDICTED IN THE U.S. ON TERRORISM-RELATED CHARGES, ARE EXTRADITED TO THE U.S. U.S.-UK COOPERATION HAS BEEN CRUCIAL IN BRINGING TO TRIAL THE TWO LIBYANS CHARGED IN CONNECTION WITH THE BOMBING OF PAN AM FLIGHT 103 IN 1988.

1K. PREVENTION OF TERRORIST ACTS AGAINST U.S. CITIZENS IN THE UK: THE USG AND HMG SHARE INFORMATION ON POSSIBLE TERRORIST THREATS AND SPONSOR REGULAR BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS, JOINT TRAINING PROGRAMS, AND EXERCISES WHICH FURTHER STRENGTHEN COOPERATIVE EFFORTS TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO TERRORIST ACTS OR SUPPORT FOR TERRORISM.

12. EMBASSY LONDON IS ALSO FORWARDING BY FAX SUGGESTED REVISIONS TO THE TEXT OF APPENDIX B OF 'PATTERNS OF GLOBAL TERRORISM - 1999', WHICH PROVIDES BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON TERRORIST GROUPS, AND LANGUAGE PROVIDED BY HMG REGARDING WHETHER CERTAIN OF THOSE GROUPS IN NORTHERN IRELAND ARE CONSIDERED TO BE ON CEASEFIRE.

13. EMBASSY LONDON REQUESTS THAT WE BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW THE FINAL DRAFT OF THE MAIN TEXT AND SECTIONS OF THE APPENDICES OF THE 2000 REPORT THAT DEAL WITH THE UK,

INCLUDING NORTHERN IRELAND, PRIOR TO PUBLICATION OF THE REPORT. WE WILL COORDINATE THIS REVIEW WITH CONSULATE GENERAL BELFAST TO ENSURE THAT ALL STATEMENTS AND DESCRIPTIONS ARE CURRENT AND ACCURATE AT THE TIME OF PUBLICATION.

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